Accounts of Indian Missions Abroad

1467. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether lapses in the maintenance of accounts by Indian missions abroad have been found;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt strict measures to check any misuse of funds by the Indian missions abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). Accounts are prepared in our Missions abroad in accordance with laid down rules and regulations and every care is taken to ensure their compliance. These are regularly sent to the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs in the form of a cash account every month. Any discrepancy noticed is rectified in the accounts of the following months. These accounts are subject to the post-audit in the Office of Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs, and are also audited by Statutory Audit.

[Translation]

Medical College

1468. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of medical colleges running without grants in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of students enrolled in these colleges particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) the total number of students from outside the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Pak High Commission Official's Activity

1469. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Pakistan High Commission official was caught red-handed while indulging in activities incompatible with his official status, on September 29, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against him?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). On the night of 28-29th September, 1996 an official of Pakistan High Commission was apprehended red-handed in Delhi while accepting defence related documents. As he was indulging in activities incompatible with his official status. Government demanded that Pakistan withdraw the official from India by 2nd October, 1996. He left India on 2/10/96.

Support to India for Membership of UN Security Council

1470. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on way to the UN General Assembly and during his stay at UN headquaters, he sought to muster the support of different member countries for India's candidature for the election to the UN Security Council seat and for India's stand on expansion and democratisation of the Council; and

(b) if so, the details of such talks and the outcome thereof naming the countries offered to support India's candidature?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Over 70 bilateral meetings were held with leaders of other delegations during my visit to New York for the 51st session of the U.N. General Assembly. During the course of these meetings, India's candidature to the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council was projected, as were our views on the issue of expansion and democratisation of the Security Council. Other bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

While efforts were made and a number of indications of support were received, the election was conducted through secret ballot and voting intentions were not fully disclosed.

Acquisition of Naval Hardware by Pakistan

1471. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of Pakistan's recent acquisition of sophisticated naval hardware;

(b) if so, the counter measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to replace the obsolete Naval Force hardware;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the behest of the Prime Minister, a task force had been set up to pursue the acquisition of priority

requirement of systems and weapons for the Navy in order to meet the threat posed by the recent acquisitions of hardware by Pakistan. The Task Force has in its report identified a number of steps as counter-measures against these Pakistani acquisitions.

(c) to (e). All developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under constant observation by the Government and appropriate counter-measures are initiated from time to time to maintain defence preparedness. The Indian Navy is also re-equipped and modernised in keeping with the emerging threat perceptions.

Viral Conjuctivities

1472. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several patients suffering from viral conjunctivities have become blind after using the medicines widely prescribed by registered doctors:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken against such doctors; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d). There is no reliable data available on this issue. However, recently thirteen patients with history of corneal ulceration reported at the Dr. R.P. Centre for Opthalmic Sciences, New Delhi after an attack of viral conjuctivities. Four of these patients were treated with cornealgraft as there was an evidence of extensive damage of cornea. The public has also been made aware of risk of damage to cornea by use of steroid eye drops and eye ointments during conjuctivities.

[Translation]

Irrigation under Tribal Sub-Plan Region

1473. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been no increase in the irrigated area of tribal sub-plan region after the enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980:

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have any other plan to increase the irrigated area without effecting the Forest Conservation Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) There has been an increase in the ultimate irrigation potential of 1.55 million hectares through Major and Medium Projects under Tribal Sub-Plan during the period 1979-80 to 1993-94.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

Gorkha Training Centre in Sabathu, H.P.

1474. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes of Army exposure camp for school children organised by the Directorate General Infantry at the Gorkha Training Centre in Sabathu in Himachal Pradesh: and

(b) the details of such camp organised during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). 1. An adventure camp called 'Beyond Horizons - 96' was organised for the children of the Salwan Public School, Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi by the School Staff near Sabathu (Shimla). The School authorities approached the Infantry Directorate for assistance to expose the children to Army Life. The camp was for a duration of ten days from 21 May 1996 to 31 May 1996.

2. The aim of the camp was to acquaint young school children to the Army, its ethos, activities and to generate in them a zeal for outdoor life, adventure, National spirit and inculcate qualities of leadership and discipline and thereby motivate them to join the Armed Forces.

3. The subjects covered in the camp included the following :

(a) Familiarisation with Armed Forces, Service Life, Ethos and training.

(b) Adventure activities to include Rock climbing, Trekking, Camping and Survival, Water Crossing and lectures on Leadership, Motivation, Service Life, History of the Armed Forces and so on.

4. Most of these activities were organised by the school staff themselves. The training centre provided a few qualified instructors and material assistance. The camp was well received and as per reports from school authorities the children have been greatly motivated to serve the Mother Land.

5. Only one camp of this nature was organised at Sabathu.

Additional Gauging Centre

1475. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up additional gauging centre at Biligondlu on the border of Karnataka-Tamil Nadu by the Central Water Commission to monitor the flow of Cauvery water:

(b) if so, whether both the States have agreed to the above proposal; and